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REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Abstract

The Abstract has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Specification

The specification has been amended to list the publications numbers of the cited patent applications.

New Claims

Claims 25-27 are added as supported in original claims 10-14.

Rejection

Claims 1-9 and 15-22 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over certain claims of co-pending patent application No. 10/183,710 (US 2004/0001950 A1) in view of Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, "Ionomers", Volume 14, pp. 815-829 (Fourth Edition, 1995). For expediency, applicants have filed a terminal disclaimer against the co-pending patent application. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested. Should any matters remain unresolved, please feel free to contact the undersigned at the below-listed direct dial telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 1, 2004